2020 discharge: European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

2021/2131(DEC) - 04/05/2022 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the Director of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) for the financial year 2020 and to approve the closure of the accounts for that year.

Noting that the Court of Auditors stated that it had obtained reasonable assurance that the Institute's annual accounts for the financial year 2020 were reliable and that the underlying transactions were legal and regular, Parliament adopted, by 570 votes to 32 with 31 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations which form an integral part of the discharge decision and which complement the general recommendations contained in the resolution on the performance, financial management and control of EU agencies.

Institute's financial statements

The Institute's final budget for the financial year 2020 amounted to EUR 625 088 022.57, representing an increase of 12.04 % compared to 2019. The overall contribution of the Union to the Institute's budget for 2020 amounted to EUR 546 629 182.74 representing an increase of 31.4 % compared to 2019.

Budgetary and financial management

The budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2020 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 99.85 %, representing an increase of 2.81 % compared to 2019. The payment appropriations execution rate was 99.13 %, representing an increase of 1.56 % compared to 2019.

Other observations

Parliament also made a series of observations concerning performance, staff policy, public procurement, internal controls and Covid-19.

In particular, it noted that:

- as a response to the challenges raised by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Institute successfully launched and managed the crisis response initiative, as part of its pandemic response projects that aimed to support the innovation cluster in Europe;

- the Institute’s governing board decided to mobilise EUR 60 million of additional funding for innovators powering high-impact solutions that tackle the unprecedented social and economic challenge brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic;

- actions have been taken to improve its online security and to increase its digitalisation in terms of internal operations and management procedures;

- on 31 December 2020, the establishment plan was 95.56 % implemented, with 43 temporary agents appointed out of 45 temporary agents authorised under the Union budget (compared with 44 authorised posts in 2019).Once again, Parliament noted the lack of gender balance within the Institute’s senior and middle management positions but welcomed a balance within the Institute’s management board;

- new procedures were added to the Institute´s 2020 procurement plan during the year. 95 % of procurement procedures were completed in accordance with its plan.